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PWLL CERIS—SION TUDUR—THOMAS PRYS.

To the EDITOR of the CAMBRO-BRITON.

SIR,—In your CAMBRO-BRITON, No. 5. p. 190, is an Englyn on Pwll Cerys, the Vortex in the Menai. In the note beneath Mr. Llwyd says, the Englyn is certainly worth preserving; but scarcely so, I presume, in the state in which it is printed. It appears, that it never was correct. In the *Greal*, No. VII., p. 30, you will find five Englynion upon the same subject by Sir Huw Robert,—three by Gruffydd Hiraethog,—three by Sion Tudur,—and two by Wiliam ab Hywel. In the first Englyn, however, which is *Proest**, the 5th and 6th lines are supernumerary, and do not belong either to the metre or the rhythm. The bards, above-named, vary in the orthography of the name of the Vortex. The 1st has it Cerys; the 2d, Cerys and Ceris; the 3d and 4th, Ceris. I shall copy one out of the thirteen: it is by Gruffydd Hiraethog.

Cerys bwl megys am eigion—y trai
Troäd chwrlig-wgon;
Crwydrad dwr, yn cor-droi tôn,
Ceulwne i ofni calon.

None of the bards of that age, or perhaps of any other, wrote in such a style of exquisite humour as Sion Tudur. Here are four Englynion of his, as specimens of his talent in ludicrous satire: the subject—a gentleman, who had built a stately mansion with nine chimnies, and only one of them smoking.

Di bleser yw dy balasau—corniawg,
Carnedd fo dy furiau;
Ai un tân coeg bentan cau,
Sy' am naw o simneiau?

Cyrn hirion, gwynion, di gynnes—gegin,
Cyrn gwagedd a rhodres;
Cyrn bost—heb rost—ac heb wrês,
Carwn dori cynn diwres!

Ffei o gyrn cedyrn, caudadwaith—heb rês,
Ac heb wrês na' i obaith;
Fflagla wellt—was ffuglawl waith,
Gnâf gwan! a gwna fwg unwaith!

* A term in Welsh Prosody, signifying a sequel in contradistinction to a first part, also a counterchange or contrast of vowels.—E.B.

Gwnaeth grin-was Blâs, a bulu—i'w edrych
 Ai wydraw o'ï ddeutu
 Ni rydd geiniog, daïog du,
 A gwenwyn ganddo ganu.

Thomas Prys, of Plas Iolyn, in Yspsyty Ieuan, was a poet of talent, and like Sion Tudur excelled in satire and humour. He had a happy knack at what may be termed in versification laconic alternation; such as in the *Cywydd i oganu eiddig, ac i ganmol ei wraig*—"Siwgr yw Gwen, a soeg yw'r gwr"—&c. The following lines were written by him to the memory of Richard Middleton, Esq. Governor of Denbigh Castle, under the Earl of Leicester, and Jane his wife, the daughter of Hugh Dryhurst, of Denbigh; in which lines the laconic alternation is exemplified.

"Hir, alar gwasgar a gaf,
 Hwn oedd ŵr—hon oedd araf;
 Hwn oedd lew—hon oedd lawen,
 Hwn oedd wych—hon oedd wen;
 Hynod fu'r ammod yma,
 Hwn oedd ddoeth, a hon oedd dda;
 Hwn oedd hael—hon oedd helaeth,
 Hwn i nef—hon yno aeth."

A biographical sketch of the author would be interesting to your readers. It is said, that a whim took him to fix his residence in Bardsey, and that he fitted out a privateer at his own charge, to cruise against the Spaniards. He was a descendant of Rhys ab Meredydd, called Rhys Vawr o'r Yspsyty, who distinguished himself in Bosworth field.

CURIG.

TRAETH Y LAFAN.

A Correspondent at Welsh Pool, who writes under the signature of YMOFYNYDD, wishes to know, whether any correct account can now be given of this place, which he calls *Traeth Llefain*, previous to its overflow, and at what period that event is supposed to have taken place. If any of the readers of the CAMBRO-BRITON should be able to satisfy Ymofynydd on this point, their communications would be gladly inserted. A collection of the popular traditions in the neighbourhood would, perhaps, be the most satisfactory answer to the inquiry, which has reference not merely to Traeth y Lafan, but to the whole line of coast from Arfon to Cardigan Bay.—ED.